

# The Romulus News

JUNE 16, 2000 – JUNE 29, 2000

"the little paper"

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 23

## Timely Tidbits ...

### Election Results

On Monday, June 12, a dismal turnout of 791 voters reelected Betty Lenossi and Michael Woods to the Romulus Board of Education and turned down three proposed revisions to the Romulus City Charter. Vote totals follow.

- Betty Lenossi: 561
- Michael Woods: 441
- Robert McLachlan: 223
- Prop. #1: 368 "yes"; 392 "no"
- Prop. #2: 339 "yes"; 390 "no"
- Prop. #3: 341 "yes"; 393 "no"

### Parade, Tournament Entries Sought

With the approach of the annual City of Romulus Hometown Celebration, the City is currently seeking entries for its Stars & Stripes Men's Softball Tournament as well as its Hometown Celebration Parade.

Teams wishing to participate in the softball tournament – to be held at Elmer Johnson Park on Tuesday, July 4, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. – can register at the Romulus Recreation Center (located at 36515 Bibbins). Cost is \$125 per team. Early registration is encouraged, since space is limited to the first eight entrants.

Interested youth, church, and civic organizations that would like to take part in the parade – which will depart from the Romulus City Hall parking lot at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 3 – can get more information by calling the Recreation Center at 734-942-6852.

### Summer Registration

The Romulus/Van Buren Adult and Community Education program is now accepting registrations for its summer GED and computer classes. Deadline for sign-up is Monday, June 26. Classes may be free if you qualify.

For details, call 734-941-0610.

### Erratum

In the May 4 issue of *TRN*, the honor-roll list for Halecreek Elementary School should have listed Ashlee Wells as having achieved "high honors." □

## Bower Retires After 30 Years with Schools

Willard "Bill" Bower, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Romulus Community Schools, will retire on June 30. Bower, who spent five years at Ford Motor Company before coming to the district in 1970, worked as a plumbing and electrical specialist until being appointed to his current position in May of 1983.

Bower's job involves a wide range of duties.

One of his primary responsibilities is the supervision of the district and building custodial staff members.

As the overseer of building maintenance, he is responsible for plumbing, electrical, and heating/cooling systems. He was also involved when funds from the 1990 bond issue were used to implement a high-tech regulation system that controls the temperature in each building from a centrally located computer.

As the person in charge of custodial, lunchroom, office, and teaching supplies and equipment, Bower estab-

lished the district's current "stock room" practices, including proper procedures for processing purchase orders, receiving and delivering goods, and generally keeping track of an enormous inventory that includes everything from paper to polish and computers to calk.

In the area of grounds maintenance, he supervises the upkeep of the district's property, including athletic fields and playground facilities, and is also responsible for all maintenance vehicles and equipment.

Most recently, he was at the forefront of the district's successful efforts to become Y2K compliant.

And Bower is also responsible for overseeing any setup necessary for special events such as concerts, festivals, and graduations.

"Over the years, the district has consistently received high praise for the graduation ceremonies and numerous District and State band festivals that we have hosted," said Romulus Commu-



Bill Bower

nity Schools spokesperson Dick Kruse. "Thousands of visitors have viewed our school system and community in a most favorable manner through these events. Bill Bower was the man responsible for implementing these programs." □

## Court Programs Focus on Safety, Youth Alternatives

### Refuse To Be A Victim

An upcoming safety seminar, called "Refuse To Be A Victim" (RTBAV), will focus on home, vehicle, and personal security, as well as the psychology of criminal predators. Hosted by the 34th District Court, the \$25 program will be held on Thursday, June 29, from 6 to 9 p.m., and is open to anyone over 16 years of age. Space is limited; early sign-up is recommended. Contact Al or Lisa at the Court (11131 Wayne Road, Romulus).

### Michigan Youth Challenge Academy

The 34th District Court and DoubleTree Hotel are sponsoring a free orientation to introduce the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA), administered by the Michigan National Guard. The MYCA program is designed to help high-school dropouts (age 16 to 18) get a GED or high-school diploma, improve life skills, and better their chances for employment through military-style discipline. The program is free to participants and carries no obligation to join the military.

In addition to 400 hours of classroom instruction, cadets receive leadership, self-discipline, physical, and vocational training. They perform a minimum of 32 hours of community service and earn eight credit-hours from Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Anyone who would like to learn more about MYCA is urged to attend the orientation, to be held at DoubleTree Hotel (31500 Wick Road, Romulus) on Wednesday, June 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Lisa at the Court (734-941-4462, ext. 205) no later than June 21. □

## Seven-year-old Girl Saves Her Grandmother's Life

On Monday, June 12, seven-year-old Taekola Comer came home from school to find her grandmother passed out on her kitchen floor. Taekola tried waking her grandmother without success. She immediately went to the phone and dialed 911, but disconnected the call before dispatch personnel could talk with her.

Fortunately, the City of Romulus has an enhanced 911 system which identifies 911 callers.

"Dispatcher Scott Mullins immediately called the number back and spoke with Taekola," said Executive Lieutenant Eric Painter of the Romulus Police Department. "She was able to tell Mullins that her grandmother, Jessie Gates, needed help."

"Taekola remained very calm during the incident, and was able to insure that her grandmother received the help she needed."

Personnel from the City's police and fire departments, along with an ambulance from Community Emergency Medical Services, responded to Gates' Beverly Road address. They found her lying unconscious. It was discovered that Gates, who has diabetes, had slipped into a diabetic coma. She was revived and treated at the scene.

Responding medical personnel believe that if help hadn't been summoned when it was, the results could have been deadly for Gates.

Officer Matt Krol was so impressed with Taekola's actions that he has nominated her to receive the police department's Citizens Award. □



# Letter to the Editor

## Policy Analyst for Environmental Protection Agency Comments on Winona, TX

*Editor's note: The following letter from William Sanjour, Policy Analyst for the Environmental Protection Agency, to the Honorable Carol M. Browner, EPA administrator, was written May 8, 1997. It is reprinted here at the request of R.P. Lilly, RECAP (Romulus Environmentalists Care About People) member, with permission from Mr. Sanjour.*

\* \* \*

Dear Ms. Browner:

In light of the Inspector General's recent concern over the inappropriate influence of regulated industries on EPA decisions, I would like to call to your attention a situation which I ran across in EPA Region 6. It would appear that EPA has bent over backwards to allow a hazardous waste facility with a terrible record of pollution and violations to continue in operation and may even have gone so far as to reduce the stringency of the standards for protection human health and environmental so as to allow the facility to expand its operations. This has caused considerable suffering over many years to the poor and mostly black residents living nearby.

The facility in Winona, Texas is a hazardous waste treatment and deep well injection operation run by the American Ecology Environmental Services Corp. (AEESC). Several years ago, the facility (then known as Gibraltar) requested a modification to the exemption to the land disposal restrictions in order to open an additional hazardous waste injection well. The request was denied by EPA because the cement casing around the well failed to cover 800 feet of the well. Cement casing is required over the entire length of a hazardous waste injection well to prevent leakages according to EPA regulations cited in 40 CFR section 146.65 (c)(2) & (c)(4).

The facility is regulated, under EPA oversight, by the TNRCC (Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission). EPA's decision to deny Gibraltar's request was based not on the EPA regulation but on the TNRCC's regulation, which at the time was identical to the EPA regulation. However, immediately after issuing the denial, EPA began to work with the TNRCC to weaken the TNRCC regulation so as to allow the well to be permitted. Upon re-application by the facility, without any improvement in the well, EPA granted the exemption because it now met the revised, less stringent Texas standard. The Agency, while claiming in its deci-

sion that "drilling mud is not a replacement for cement" accepted drilling mud as a replacement for the missing 800 feet of cement.

The law requires that a state program approved by EPA shall be conducted in accordance with the federal requirements (40 CFR section 145.1 (f)). Conspiring to reduce the environmental protection below the federal standard in order to promote business interests may be breaking the law and is certainly corrupt, immoral and unethical.

In the public hearing which followed EPA's decision, the aroused citizens came up with lots of reasons why the request should be denied. Among these were many challenges to the competence and integrity of the plant owners. One after another of the citizens gave citations of the dreadful environmental conditions which had prevailed at the plant in the past as well as the bad track record of the current owners, AEESC. In its final decision, EPA did not respond to such charges, arguing that EPA did not have the authority to consider the competence and integrity of the plant owner to operate the well. However the same region had recently denied a permit to another hazardous waste facility on that very basis. (In a private conversation, a Region 6 staff attorney assured me that the competence of AEESC was demonstrated by the fact that they filled out their application correctly!)

This bias in favor of the regulated facilities and the contempt for the poor and disenfranchised who have the temerity to complain about it, is widespread among EPA personnel and is especially strong in Region 6.

This plant has been a horror to its neighbors for years because of frequent emergency evacuations and complaints of smell, burning eyes, headaches and throat ulcers. It has been said that the political influence of its owners has kept it going despite this. I have been told this not only by the neighbors but by knowledgeable EPA personnel as well. After years of struggle, the community no longer believes that the government will protect them. Those who can afford to have moved away, the poor must remain.

The bond of trust between the public and those charged with protecting them, which is necessary in a civil society, has been severed in Winona long ago, so that the government has no credibility. I have worked with troubled communities like Winona for two de-

acades. I have seen this phenomenon in many other communities living in the shadow of dangerous facilities for years with no help from the authorities. The continual stress of living in such an environment is itself the well documented cause of many ailments. So that even if government scientists with their meters and their analysis eventually show that there is no longer any danger from chemical exposure, they are not believed. At that stage it is too late. The only cure for such a community is its extinction or the closure of the facility.

Sincerely,

William Sanjour, Policy Analyst  
Environmental Protection Agency

\* \* \*

*Editor's note: After receiving Mr. Sanjour's letter, I spoke with Ruben Ochoa, spokesperson for the TNRCC, and Phil Dellinger, Chief of the Groundwater/Underground Injection Control (UIC) Section of EPA Region 6.*

*According to Ochoa, there is absolutely no evidence of any off-site water*

*contamination from the Winona facility in question. That statement was confirmed by Dellinger, who is also confident that the on-site contamination of shallow groundwater was not the result of deep-well operation.*

*Dellinger added that, to the best of his knowledge, there has never been a case of USDW (underground sources of drinking water) contamination from a Class I injection well since UIC regulations have been in effect.*

\* \* \*

*All letters to the editor must contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request if, in our opinion, the letter's content merits anonymity. The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.*

*For more information about this or any other policy of The Romulus News, please contact Kristi Stephens, editor, at 734-941-1907. □*

## The Romulus News

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## The Editor's Opinion

### State Should Approve EDS Permit

By Kristi Stephens

With its recent (June 9) receipt of a wetlands permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc. (EDS), has cleared the final major hurdle on the road to compliance with State requirements for the construction and operation of a hazardous-waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility on Citrin Drive in Romulus. DEQ Director Russ Harding's decision on the project is imminent.

I believe that Harding should, and will, approve the EDS permit, and I have three good reasons for doing so.

First: There is a real need for this type of facility. Right now, wastes that could be safely injected nearly a mile beneath basically impermeable rock are, instead, being dumped into our lakes and rivers.

Second: EDS has "bent over backwards" to comply with all reasonable suggestions for mitigating the facility's impact on the community, and – despite years of opportunity to do so – opponents have yet to come up with a substantive reason to reject the project.

Third: Given a proposal that's technically sound, it would be morally wrong to deny EDS its permit because of objections raised by politically motivated officials or misinformed citizens. In 1990, despite a televised public meeting and front-page stories in both local newspapers, not a whimper was heard from the public when EDS first proposed a Romulus deep-well. In 1993, with every reason to believe that it was making a lawful and uncontested use of its property, EDS spent a fortune to drill a well on Wahrman Road. It's a crying shame that, seven years, several local election campaigns, and untold millions later, the company is still jumping through hoops for a facility that poses considerably less risk than businesses already operating in our community, unmolested.

For all these reasons, we urge Mr. Harding to grant EDS its permit. By all means, hold EDS to the most stringent safety standards – even require the payment of a hefty royalty for the privilege of using our geological and transportation resources – but allow the company to operate a facility that will benefit us all in the years to come. □

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**Rain-out Date for the Fireworks Is  
Wednesday, July 5th at 10:00 p.m.**



# Around Our School District



Among those Merriman Elementary School Choir members who gave a special performance on Tuesday, May 30, were (from left) Dylan Boyd, Frank McCurdy, Sara Kincaid, and Alise Whalen.



Elementary students performing in the annual "Spring Concert" band programs included (from left) Mike Behnke (Merriman), Crystal Denny (Merriman), Autumn King (Halecreek), and Kiara Carter (Halecreek).



Dr. Kathleen Jacobson (center), Director of Community High School, was on hand to congratulate the program's graduates, including (from left) Crystal Patterson, Nicole Bettis, Ann Atchley, and Dejuan Evans.



(From left) Eric Renner, Rachel Kolar, Antuan Delaney, and Candice Bingham were among more than 200 members of Romulus High School's Class of 2000 who attended their commencement on Saturday, June 10.



Seventy-five-year-old Jene Whittrock (center) is one of many new grads who earned a high-school diploma through the Romulus/Van Buren Adult Education program. Among those who attended the graduates' commencement were Ken Berlinn, Secretary of the Romulus Board of Education, and Eva Webb, Treasurer.



(From left) Good Humor representative Tony Parker served a variety of frozen treats to Brandi King (seventh-grade student), Jessaca Henry (math teacher), Stacy Coffee (seventh-grade student), and many others who attended Romulus Middle School's recent "Fun Day" student-reward program.



## Local Man Chosen as State's Corrections Officer of the Year



Officer Donald Bosley

Romulus Corrections Officer Donald Bosley was presented with a Special Tribute by State Representative Ray Basham (D-Taylor) at a banquet held in East Lansing last month to honor Michigan's outstanding corrections officers. The tribute recognizes Bosley's selection as the Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year by the Michigan Corrections Organization (MCO).

Earlier the same day, Bosley joined Basham on the Floor of the Michigan House of Representatives, where Basham presented House Resolution 343 (honoring all Michigan corrections officers) to MCO President Kary Sowels.

"Corrections Officer Donald Bosley represents the best and the brightest that Michigan has to offer," said Basham.

Bosley is assigned to the Residential Treatment Program at the Scott Correctional Facility in Plymouth, Michigan.

## RHS JV Baseball Wins Tournament

Romulus High School's junior varsity baseball team has added a tournament championship to its long list of accomplishments in the 2000 season.

After clinching the Mega League Championship on Monday, May 22 (beating River Rouge by a score of 13-2), the Eagles were looking to keep their undefeated league record going.

Starting the tournament as the top seed, the JV Eagles "mercied" Dearborn Fordson, 13-3, behind the complete-game pitching performance of Steve Moore. Offensively, Romulus was led by Captain Brandon Demoisey, who had a double and three RBI. Every member of the team contributed to the victory.

In the championship game against River Rouge, things weren't quite so easy. The Eagles got on top early when starting pitcher Josh Phil-

lips belted a two-run homer, but the Panthers kept it close throughout the game. In the bottom of the seventh, things got especially tense, as Rouge loaded the bases and scored, cutting the Eagles' lead to 8-7. With two outs, it looked like the Panthers would pull ahead on a line drive hit to the outfield, but Jason Tackett, who had three hits in the game, came out of nowhere and made a great catch to end the game. Offensively, the Eagles were led by Mark Woody, who had two hits and four RBI, as well as Jacob Mercado, who had a tie-breaking RBI double.

"This is the greatest group of guys I've ever been around," said second-year Head Coach Everette Robbins. "It just shows what can be accomplished when you work together and play as a team."

The Eagles finished the season with a 16-4 record overall. □



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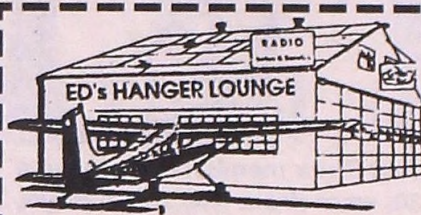
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## CAN YOU GUESS WHO?

You might not have known our "mystery man" when this picture was taken, but his adult face is familiar to many people in the City of Romulus.

To learn his identity, anagram (rearrange) each "key word" below – WITH THE ADDITION OF ONE LETTER – to answer the corresponding clue, and fill in the blanks accordingly.

If the puzzle is done correctly, the added letters, read from top to bottom, will spell out the name of this prominent local citizen.

### ADD THE LETTER ... TO THE LETTERS IN ... TO GET

- \_\_\_ ... BARGE ... a character from *The Wind in the Willows* \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ ... SQUIRM ... certain nobleman's title \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ ... SLEIGH ... *The* \_\_\_\_\_ *Patient* (Ralph Fiennes film) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ ... CRAG ... trademark prop for Groucho or W.C. Fields \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ ... CUTLET ... salad staple \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ ... CURE ... tummy trouble \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ ... ACORN ... Styx ferryman \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ ... PROSIER ... a Great Lake \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ ... SWELTER ... The Rock or The Undertaker, for example \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ ... CLEAT ... chess move involving the king and a rook \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ ... CLARION ... parsleylike herb \_\_\_\_\_

For solution, see page 13

## YOU'LL FIND IT IN "PRINCIPAL"

How many words of four or more letters can you form using only the letters found in PRINCIPAL? A letter can be used more than once only if it appears more than once. Proper nouns, plurals, obsolete and archaic words, slang and informal words, poetic words, hyphenated words, contractions, alternate spellings, and foreign words are not permitted.

Our list of 22 words can be found on page 13

## Class Leaders Share Their Memories at Commencement



Erin Conway, valedictorian



Brooke Thompson, salutatorian

It should come as no surprise that last Saturday's commencement was a time of both joy and sorrow for Romulus High School's Class of 2000. As the graduates said good-bye to friends and mentors, they were also saying hello to a future that will be theirs for the making.

Among the most poignant moments of the ceremony were the speeches given by Erin Conway, valedictorian, and Brooke Thompson, salutatorian. Both of these gifted young ladies shared their fond remembrances of school days gone by, and expressed their hopes for the days to come.

### Erin Conway

"I would like to take you on a journey to our first day at Romulus High School. As freshmen, we were nervous, shy, and felt out of place. Think now of whom you turned to for support. Some of us grew close to our teachers, counselors, coaches, and administrators. Others had older siblings to guide them. Yet, most of us turned to each other. From that first day, we have been a team.

"Being the first class of the new millennium, so much was expected of us. The only way to satisfy the expectations put upon us was to stick together

and work as a team. And that is exactly what we did. Our class council even threw away with individual officers to form a joint leadership. We changed our mindset from individual success, to victory as a whole. Today we are finally reaping the rewards of our hard work. From academics to athletics, our accomplishments have outnumbered those from classes before us. Together, we have excelled beyond all the barriers. Our mark has definitely been left here. We are the Romulus Senior High School class of 2000.

"As we begin this new time in our lives today, do not forget about where you started. Your foundation is the solid network of friends, family, and mentors that have helped you to achieve your goals. My counselor, Mr. Al Wilkerson, constantly reminds me that in the real world, who you know will be a determining factor in your success. He tells me that those people I have in my network will be one of my greatest assets. In the years ahead, your network will grow as you meet more people. This process will continue all through your life.

"Today is not an end to anything. You will always continue to learn, grow,

continued on page 11

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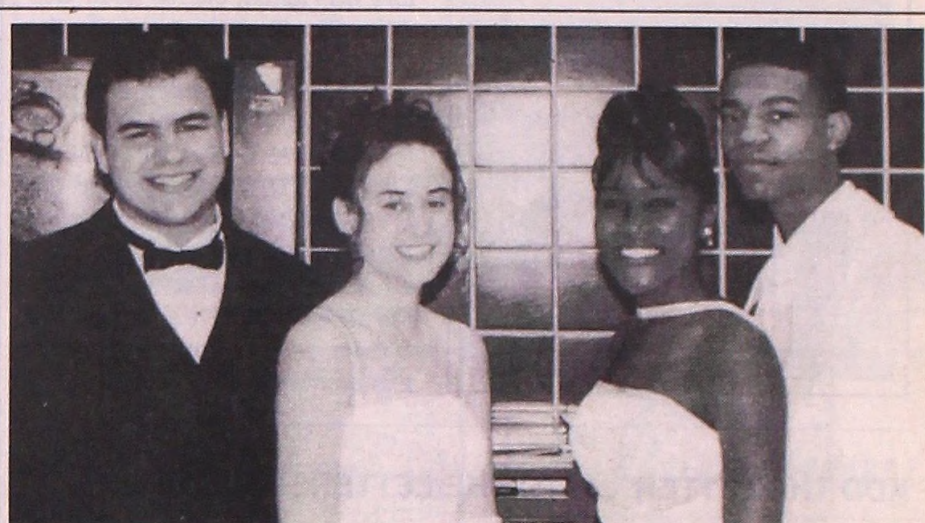
# RHS Prom 2000



Rodney Wesson, Erin Hotchkiss



Kristen Brooks, Ron Bell



Stephen Harper, Christie Mostoller, Tyra Donald, Darius Naylor



Amy Bowman, Brandon Gomes, Brandon Reed, Venecia Yarbrough



Chris Deaton, Kelly Bottenhorn, Ruby Lee, Jeremy Taylor



Bobbie Lindsay, Nick McCray, Amanda Michniak, Nicole Miela



Cykeia Lee, Jason Moomaw, Nicole Johnson, Eric Staten



# RHS Prom 2000



Candice Bingham, Naomi White, Jessica Wilhide, Christina Wands, Jaclyn Evans



Alfaye Woods (RHS Alumni Association), Andrea Coate, Roger Kehn, Don Morris (RHS Alumni Association)



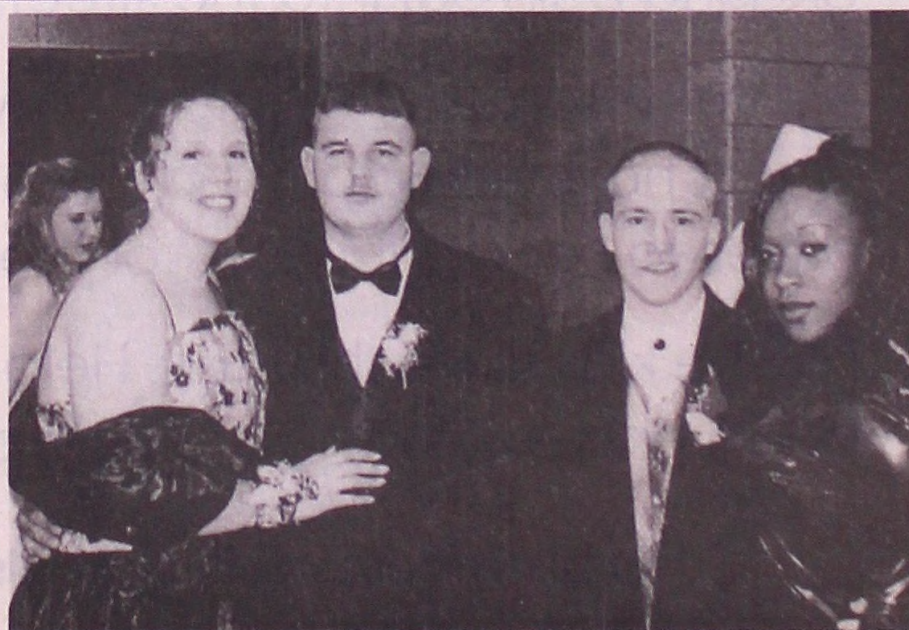
Valda Cole, Josh Remelius, Mike Hansknecht, Lisa McNulty



Brandon Olson, Brooke Thompson, Roxanne Katus, Joshua Turner



Joshua Durden, Angela Hemphill, Crystal Humble, Russel Barnes



Crystal Renton, Billy Ayers, Michael Foley, Aria Woods



# SCHOOL'S OUT!



## Drive Safely!


The kids are gearing up for summer fun. They'll be riding bikes, showing off on skateboards, honing their rollerblade skills, and chasing balls out into the street.

But they sometimes forget to watch where they're going and what's happening around them. So, it's up to you, as a responsible driver, to keep a lookout for them while you're on the road.

Let the kids have their fun. Help make it safe for them by slowing down and expecting the unexpected!

**Romulus Community Schools Board of Education and Staff**





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## Students Learn About Court System from District Judge

Fourth-grade students at Wick Elementary School recently welcomed Monroe District Court Judge Terrance Bronson into their classrooms.

Teachers Paula Barnes, Mike Bingham, and Kathy Motyka have been helping their students learn about the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, as well as the core democratic values and the three branches of federal, state, and local government. The students have also been reading about the late Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court Justice and civil-rights advocate.

Judge Bronson discussed the workings of the American court system. He also explained the difference between the various types of courts – district, circuit, probate, appellate, and supreme. Finally, after answering the students' questions, Bronson imparted one part-



Wick Elementary School teacher Kathy Motyka and Monroe District Court Judge Terrance Bronson

ing piece of advice to his audience.

"Everyone should always tell the truth," he said. □

## Class Leaders Share Memories

*continued from page 7*

and expand upon your network. In the future, we will all be successful in some way. In ten years, I hope to see you all and hear all of your success stories at our reunion. For now, thank those that have helped you achieve your current accomplishments. Thank your teachers, coaches, friends and especially family. These people will always stand behind you and any goals you plan to attain."

### Brooke Thompson

"High school has been an invaluable experience for all of us. It has given us more than we can imagine. It is within these walls that we have grown and built character. It was keeping up with Mr. Stoh's and Mr. Hanna's notebooks that made us responsible. It was the years of dealing with rumors and ridicule that taught us the importance of communicating with each other and

building trust. It was the school's zero-tolerance policy and those inspirational lectures from the principals that forced us to learn respect for ourselves and others. It was the late nights of float-building and fierce competition to win the Spirit Jug that brought us together not only as a class, but as a family.

"Now, our family, that has been 13 years in the making, is gathering for one last time. As we say our good-byes we have already begun to move on.

"Whether we go on to college or begin our careers, we will take with us our memories and experiences. As we look toward the future with high expectations and great anticipation, only God knows what great things life will bring us.

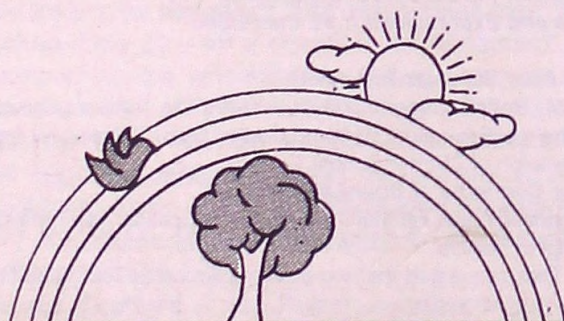
~ "As the Chinese proverb says: So let the tears we shed today be joyous. Let us always hold our heads high and be proud to be a part of Romulus High School's graduating class of 2000." □

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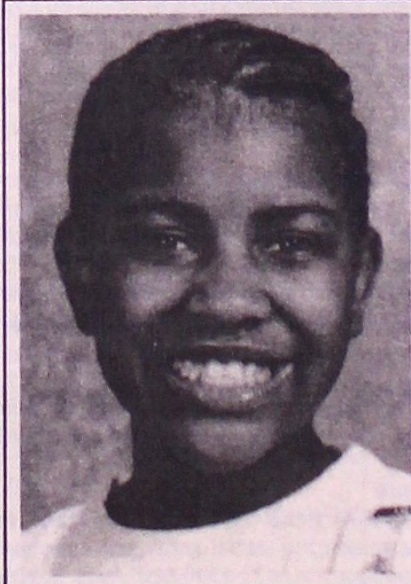
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**LaJoya Rush  
is 11 years old!**

**Happy Birthday,  
Princess!**

You're growing up so  
fast, but you'll always  
be our little girl.

**Love,  
Na-Na, T,  
and Mommie**



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# ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## 36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

## REGULAR MEETING, MAY 22, 2000

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, May 22, 2000, was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by President Betty M. Lenossi.

Roll call showed all members present. All administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Lenossi.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**5/00/15** Moved by Woods supported by Lambert to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

**5/00/16** Moved by McCraight supported by Lambert that the Board approve the Minutes of the May 8 and May 10, 2000, meetings as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

### REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

#### Personnel Actions

Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel actions for Board approval.

**EMPLOYMENT:** Shila Cofield, Teacher, 4th Grade, Barth Elementary School, Effective August 28, 2000; Kathy Coryea, Teacher, 1st Grade, Cory Elementary School, Effective August 28, 2000; Jennifer McDermott, Teacher, 2nd Grade, Wick Elementary School, Effective August 28, 2000; and Tikia Shuford, Teacher, Special Education, High School, Effective August 28, 2000.

**5/00/17** Moved by Lambert supported by Woods that the Board accept the employment of personnel as submitted by Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**RESIGNATION:** Heather Sohm, Teacher, Halecreek Elementary School, Effective June 16, 2000.

**5/00/18** Moved by Woods supported by Lambert that the Board accept the resignation of personnel as submitted. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**5/00/19** Moved by Woods supported by Lambert that the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and rescind resolution adopted by the Board of Education on April 10, 2000, to lay off Clinton Chico, Seniority Date 9/7/99, and Elana Vrettas, 11/29/99, and recall them for the forthcoming 2000/2001 school year. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE (informational, only):** Carole Durg, (Child Care) Social Worker, Halecreek Elementary School, Effective August 2000 to August 2001.

#### MASB Excellence Award

Phyllis Adkins, Principal, Cory Elementary School, was present to explain the criteria used in the selection process by the Michigan Association of School Boards for our compact initiative. She also responded to questions posed by members of the Board of Education.

#### Bills for Payment

**5/00/20** Moved by Berlinn supported by Lambert to approve the Bills for Payment as offered by Mr. Joel R. Carr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### Curriculum Report – Special Education

Mesdames Royal and Snyder and Mr. Gerald Rzepka were present to give an update on the status of the Special Education Department. They also responded to questions posed by various members of the Board of Education.

#### Contract Award for Technology Infrastructure

**5/00/21** Moved by Lambert supported by Berlinn that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Technology Department, the construction manager, and the administration to award the contract to Baycomm for a sum of \$506,820. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### Contract Award – Computer Purchase

**5/00/22** Moved by Lambert supported by Webb that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Technology Department, the construction manager, and the administration to purchase eighty-one (81) computers from Dell Computer Corporation for a price of \$133,035. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### Summer Millage 2000

**5/00/23** Moved by Woods supported by Dick that the Board of Education adopt the following levy for the 2000 summer tax collection.

	Homestead	Non-Homestead
Hold Harmless	4.41 mills	0.00 mills
Local Operations	0.00	18.00
State Tax	3.00	3.00
Debt	5.73	5.73
TOTAL	13.14 mills	26.73 mills

Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### High School Marquee

**5/00/24** Moved by Lambert supported by Webb that the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the purchase of an electronic sign for the High School from the Score Board Sales and Service Company as per the attached analysis submitted by Principal Hurst; said cost to be paid from the bond issue. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### All-day Kindergarten

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, discussed the administration's plans to pilot an all-day kindergarten program at Merriman and Halecreek Elementary Schools for the 2000–2001 school year.

#### Communications and Expressions from the Public

None.

#### Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) Immunization Fair; 2) Praise for Art Teachers; and 3) City Clerk – Explanation of Charter School.

#### Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Mrs. Betty Lenossi requested that the Board of Education members donate \$20 each to the Romulus Pumpkin Festival.

Mrs. Debbie Dick requested that we do a resolution to Tom Gibb-Randall for Service Learning.

#### Executive Session

**5/00/25** Moved by Woods supported by Lambert that the Board convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Roll call vote showed: Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 8:04 P.M. and reconvened in Regular Session at 8:24 P.M.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

**5/00/26** Moved by Webb supported by Woods that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kenneth E. Berlinn, Secretary  
Romulus Board of Education



## Community Calendar

- **Black Music Month Celebrated** – The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History continues its focus on Black Music Month with a variety of free and low-cost events. Free concerts will include a **Hip Hop Performance** (featuring local groups "Black Bottom Collective," "Freedom Dance Expression," and "Dash 039") on Friday, June 23, from 6 to 9 p.m., and a **Jazz Concert** (featuring Dianne Reeves and "Straight Ahead") on Friday, June 30, from 6 to 9 p.m. Free film presentations will include **Wild Style** (a look at the history of hip hop in America) on Thursday, June 22, at 6:30 p.m., and **Thelonious Monk: Straight No Chaser** (a unique cinematic portrait of one of the most extraordinary individuals in the history of jazz) on Thursday, June 29, at 6:30 p.m. A panel discussion ("What Is Hip Hop Culture and Is It Contributing to the Degeneration of Our Youth?") will be held on Wednesday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m. (cost: \$5 per person). A music workshop ("The Many Faces of Jazz" – conducted by the members of an all-female band) is set for Tuesday through Thursday, June 27–29, at 6:30 p.m. (cost: \$5 per person). All events will be held at the Museum, located at 315 East Warren Avenue in the heart of Detroit's Cultural Center. For more information, call 313-494-5800, ext. 0.
- **Immunization Fairs** – Romulus Community Schools – in collaboration with the Romulus Adolescent Health Center and Oakwood Healthcare Outreach – will host two immunization fairs during the coming summer. The first will be held at Cory Elementary School on Thursday, June 22, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; the second will be at Merriman Elementary School on Thursday, August 24, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. All vaccinations (\$2 each) will be available at each clinic. In order for a child to be immunized, his or her parent must be present, and must bring a copy of the child's shot record. For more information, call Laura Ralko at 734-941-0272.
- **Belleville Farmer's Market To Open** – The City of Belleville will sponsor a weekly Farmer's Market which will open at 7 a.m. each Saturday from July 8 through the balance of the growing season. The market will be located in the parking lot behind the Museum at 405 Main Street. Vendors are invited to bring their fresh produce and food items, as well as homemade baked goods and other homemade food products to sell. To help defray the costs of advertising and promotion, vendors will be charged \$8 per day per stall. For information/application, call the Belleville City Clerk: 734-697-9323.
- **National Night Out** – The City of Romulus is inviting the public to take part in its annual National Night Out crime-awareness program, set for Saturday, July 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year's fun-filled event will take place in the downtown area, and will feature attractions such as live entertainment (including a magic show, music, and dancers), hayrides, a dunk tank, carnival-type games, a dance contest, face painting, fortune telling, a craft show (space still available), police and fire exhibits, food, prizes, and more. For further information, call the Center at 734-942-6852.
- **RHS Class of 1980 To Hold 20-year Reunion** – Romulus High School's Class of 1980 will hold its 20-year reunion at the Romulus Marriott on Saturday, August 26, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$60 per person before July 15; \$70 per person thereafter (no tickets sold after August 1). Reunion organizers are looking for dozens of "lost" classmates (see our next issue – to be published June 30 – for a complete list of names). Anyone with information concerning the whereabouts of class members should call MaryLou Good (Hardoin) at 734-516-2541, Donna Brazeau (Finegan) at 734-955-6836, Lori Graczyk at 734-595-6712, Zina Matheny (Hamilton) at 734-777-0306 ([zinabusygirl@cs.com](mailto:zinabusygirl@cs.com)), or Al Dennett at 313-310-6373 ([ttennedla@aol.com](mailto:ttennedla@aol.com)); send e-mail to [Romclass80@aol.com](mailto:Romclass80@aol.com) or to Debbie Gurkin (Beem) at [Cdgurkin@excelonline.com](mailto:Cdgurkin@excelonline.com); or visit the class web site: <http://www.romclass80.com>.
- **St. Paul's Seeks Crafters** – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (located at Ellis and Craig streets in New Boston) is looking for crafters who would like to participate in its 17th annual craft show, set for Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and 9 (Apple Fest weekend). Space only is \$30; space with table is \$35. For information/application, call either Jennefer Canell (734-754-5844), Ilene Shaffer (753-4534), or the Church (753-9048).

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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## RHS Thanks Bond Sponsors



The annual Romulus High School "Student of the Month" airline-ticket giveaway program took place on May 18. Junior John Ryznar was this year's winner of two airline tickets; one \$100 savings bond and ten \$50 savings bonds were also awarded.

Romulus High School would like to acknowledge the businesses and individuals who sponsored the "Student of the Month" program during the 1999–2000 school year. Thanks to the generosity of these sponsors, the program was able to award a \$50 U.S. savings bond to 224 of the 329 students who were recognized for excellence in behavior and academics.

The sponsors were: Aztec Manufacturing Corp.; C & C Trailer Service; Chem Central; Dale Kennedy & Sons; Downriver Pest Control; Elkins Machine & Tool; Environ, Inc.; Form Flow, Inc.; Gandol, Inc.; Graduate Services; Header Products; Rhonda Hennessy, DDS; Highway Maintenance; Kiwanis Club of Michigan; Landing Strip Lounge; Landis Machine Shop; Lear Segler; Art and Eva McDonald; Precision Hardware; Romulus Community Schools Administrators; Romulus Community Schools Athletic Department; Romulus Flowers & Gifts; Romulus Progressive Club; Kundan Sata, DDS; Saw & Specialty Corp.; Stears True Value Hardware; Total Petroleum, Inc.; Trans-Overseas Corp.; United Brass Manufacturers, Inc.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Romulus High School junior John Ryznar, who was the winner of two airline tickets in the annual giveaway program, held in the High School cafeteria on May 18.

A \$100 savings bond and ten \$50 savings bonds were also awarded. □

## Answers

answers to puzzles from page 7

### CAN YOU GUESS WHO?

Badger, marquis, English, cigar, lettuce, ulcer, Charon, Superior, wrestler, castle, cilantro  
"(Romulus High School Principal)  
Daniel Hurst"

### YOU'LL FIND IT IN . . .

aril, carp, clan, clap, clip, lain, lair, liar, lira, nail, pail, pain, pair, pica, plan, rail, rain, rani, cairn, lapin, panic, plain

## Kids Score Big With Books

The Romulus Public Library invites children of all ages to take part in its "Score Big with Books" summer reading program, which has just begun. In keeping with the program's sports theme, the Library will be decorated with a variety of sports-related items.

Children will be placed in one of two groups: "Reader" or "Read-To-Me." Using the Library's reading records, Reader members will keep track of the amount of time they read each week. Read-To-Me participants will keep track of the time they listen to someone else (parent, grandparent, aunt/uncle, or older sibling, for instance) read to them.

Each week, when they turn in their reading time, the youngsters will be rewarded with a sticker and

will get their name (written on a piece of paper cut into the shape of some item of sporting equipment) added to the display of colorful bats, helmets, and balls that will adorn the Library's walls. Prizes will be awarded after five, ten, and fifteen hours of reading, and those who reach the fifteen-hour mark will have their names displayed in the Library's Reading Wall of Fame.

Weekly entertainment programs will be offered at 1 p.m. each Tuesday or Wednesday. A schedule is available at the Library.

The Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, next to City Hall), has resumed its summer schedule, and is now open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call 734-942-7589. □



## Porter Studies Multiracial History



Arekeyta Porter

Arekeyta Porter, a student at Romulus High School, has been selected to participate in "Understanding Black and Multiracial Political History in the New Millennium," the 2000 Telluride Association Sophomore Seminar (TASS), which will be held this summer at Indiana Univer-

sity in Bloomington. The six-week program is centered around a college-level seminar for gifted and highly motivated sophomores.

"I'm really excited about participating in this program, living on a college campus, and taking college courses for six weeks," said Porter. "Look out, Indiana — here I come!"

Admission to TASS is highly selective. This year's 16 participants were chosen through a competitive process involving a lengthy written application and interview. Students were nominated by school counselors and principals.

As an extra bonus, TASS students who choose to apply to and are accepted by Indiana University will be offered scholarships in their senior year.

Telluride Association is an independent, not-for-profit educational trust which has offered summer programs to high-school students of exceptional promise since 1954. □

## Adult and Community Education Program Presents Its Class of 2000

Congratulations to the Romulus/Van Buren Adult and Community Education program's Class of 2000. After much hard work and perseverance, they completed their goal, and their efforts were recognized during a commencement program held at Romulus High School on June 6.

### Community High School Diploma

Ann Atchley, Corget Bailey, Nickolas Ball, Nicole Bettis, Jessica Blanton, LaShannon Brown, Paul Centkowski, Kristen Dauphine, Thomas Deaton, Jennifer Defils, Salvador De La Torre Jr., Chad DeMara, DeJuan Evans, Jennifer Garver, Richard Gnas, Kwame Goode, Kevin Graysneck, James Hill Jr., Denielle Hubbell, Marcus Johnson Jr., Jamie Jones, Jimmie Jones, Mitchell Kellerman, Shawna Kinzel, Derek Kious, Ulysee Kirkland, Risto Kostadinovski, Emmenueel Lindsey, Elizabeth Little, Raymond Marcoux, Amarilis Martinez, Mike Martinez, Angela McKinnie, Vashon Mitchell, Melissa Ochs, James Pardington, Leslie Petta, John Reeves, Russell Ridley, Jeremy Robertson, Brian Rushlow Jr., Tiffany Ryans, Jennifer Shanes, Ronald Simpson, Jessica Smith, Garrett Staten, Danielle Stirgus, Darius Stirgus, Darius Stirgus, Michelle Straight, James Sykes, and Stevie Wardlaw.

### Adult Education Diploma

William Ashley III, Paula Bailey, Tina Bembry, Melissa Blalock, Car-

rie Bryk, Lidia Bura, Chrystal Case, Nicole Clarke, Ba-Tes Cline, Celeste Davis, Victor Ensminger Jr., Jessica Frantz, Eric Frazier, J.D. Green, James Halkyard Jr., Adam Jones, Michael Keller, Kimberly Kramer, Amber Lively, Alvin Lyons, Melissa McCall, Steven Moore, Nicole Nolte, Edward Payment, Angela Powell, Elizabeth Robbins, Solomon Rayford, Edward Ryback II, Joya Samuel, Courtney Shaw, Anthony Short, Randall Shoulders, Almount Smith Sr., Michael Turpin, Misty Winter, Nichole Walker, Tommy Williams, and Timothy Young.

### GED Certificate

Russell Aigner, Paula Bailey, Jessica Belcher, Cindy Berro, Christina Bichard, Cherrita Burns, Gary Caldwell, Ronald Carnahan, Chrystal Case, Christina Centers, Kyle Clelland, Jamie DeTroyer, Benjamin Frazier, James Hoffon, Rachel Gibson, Tracey Green, Kiszzy Hill, Shirley Hunter, Crystal Joyce, Dennis Kendall, Deborah Lewallen, Candy Lonaker, Adam Mamayek, Stephanie Marcum, Connie Mason, Stanelle Meeks, Donald Moffat, Della Neumann, Blair Olszewski, Crystal Patton, Angela Powell, John Rankin, Christina Ramirez, Dana Rious, Tera Scott, Arthur Shelton Jr., Ernesta Steanhouse, Annray Tauck, Kimberly Walker, Sherrie Winters, Gene Wittrock, and Winford Weathers Jr. □

## Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus; Cheryl Blanton, Media Liaison for the Senior Center; and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, please call 734-942-6852.)

### Volunteer for National Night Out

Volunteers who might be interested in helping to plan and organize the annual National Night Out crime-awareness program (Saturday, July 29) are urged to call the Center to find out more about working on this fun and worthwhile event.

### Shopping

For a transportation fee of just \$1.50, Romulus senior citizens can ride the Center's van for a shopping trip to the Wal-Mart and Meijer stores in Monroe on Friday, June 30, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Since space is limited, seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment of the transportation fee reserves your seat. No refunds will be made unless there is a waiting list. Sign up at the Center.

### Outside Chore Service

Beginning June 19, area young people doing community-service work will be available to perform outside chores for senior citizens. The service will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. For more information, call the Center.

### Water Aerobics

Wayne County Community Center is offering classes in water aerobics to senior citizens and arthritis sufferers. Classes meet each Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Cost is \$19 for 15 visits.

Although program participants may attend on their own, the Center will provide transportation for \$1 per person per day if at least three people take advantage of the service. Advance notice is required for transportation.

### Haircuts

Mark your calendars: The Romulus Senior Center's haircut service has moved to a new date and time (the third Monday of each month beginning at 9 a.m.). If you would like to take advantage of this affordable (\$5) service, call the Center to make an appointment.

Note: All haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointment, as the Center does not have the necessary facilities.

### Crime Watch

Crime Prevention Officer Joe Richardson of the Romulus Police Department will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 9 to 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 22, for the Center's monthly Crime Watch program. New faces are always welcome.

### Center Offers Transportation Service

Round-trip transportation service within the Romulus city limits is available to local seniors each Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a fee of just \$1. To make your reservation (no later than 2 p.m. on the day before the trip), please call 734-942-6852 during the Center's normal business hours.

### Regularly Scheduled Activities

The Romulus Senior Center invites you to stop by on your own or bring a friend to take part in any of the following regularly scheduled programs:

- Ceramics  
(1 and 6 p.m. each Monday)
- Club #1 meetings  
(11 a.m. each Tuesday)
- Bunco  
(1 p.m. each Tuesday)
- Bingo  
(1 p.m. each Wednesday)
- Pinochle  
(1 p.m. each Thursday)
- Quilting  
(7 p.m. each Thursday).

For more information, please contact the Center.

### New Members Sought

The Friends of the Romulus Public Library is seeking new members. The group's activities include assisting with children's programs and conducting an annual "used-book sale" benefit. For more information about how you can join, stop in at the Library (located at 11121 South Wayne Road, at Goddard, next to City Hall) during its regular business hours (Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday from 12 to 5 p.m.) or call 734-942-7589.

### Why Casinos?

Linda Norman, Senior Program Coordinator, says that she's frequently asked why most of the Center's "special trips" are casino-related. There's a very simple reason: lack of support for any other type. Apparently, trips to other venues rarely generate the required minimum of 30 participants.

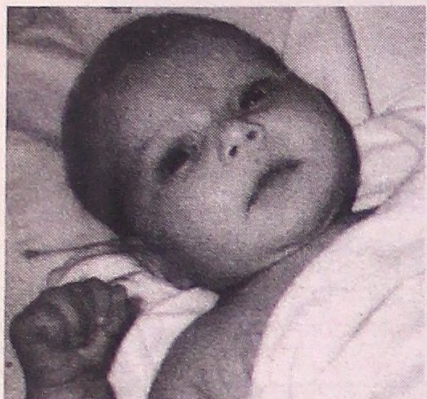
Norman says that she and her staff are always open to suggestions concerning alternative destinations and ways to generate increased interest in them. If you have a question or comment, feel free to give her a call. □

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# The Stork Arrived

## Brighton Mae Banyai



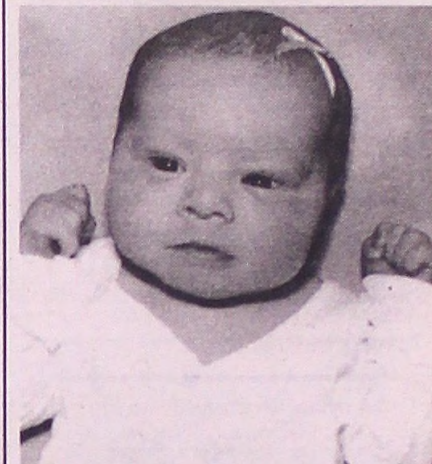
Brighton Mae Banyai

Proudly announcing the birth of their new daughter, Brighton Mae Banyai, are Brian and Barbara Banyai of Romulus, Michigan.

Born in Riverside Osteopathic Hospital (Trenton, MI) at 3:09 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2000, Brighton weighed 9 pounds, 11 ounces, and measured 22 inches in length.

Dana and Carol Banyai (Ann Arbor, MI) and the late Evelyn Harris-Banyai are Brighton's paternal grandparents; her maternal grandparents are Tom and Joyce Markowski (Garden City, MI) and Shirley King (Canton, MI).

## Lauren Alice Druyor



Lauren Alice Druyor

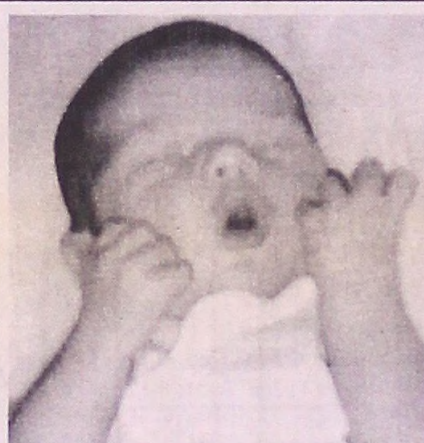
Dave and Merrie Druyor of Romulus, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their new daughter, Lauren Alice Druyor.

Lauren was born in Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital (Wyandotte, MI) at 10:55 a.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2000, weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces, and measuring 20.5 inches in length.

Especially excited about the new arrival were half-sister Brittany (age twelve) and brother David (age three).

Lauren's paternal grandparents are Betty Druyor (Southgate, MI) and the late Robert Druyor; Fred and Bobbie Engel (West Branch, MI) are her maternal grandparents.

## Michael Anthony Lane



Michael Anthony Lane

Proudly announcing the birth of their new son, Michael Anthony Lane, are Mark Lane and Alina Johnson of Romulus, Michigan.

Born in Oakwood Hospital (Dearborn, MI) at 12:21 a.m. on Sunday, February 13, 2000, Michael weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces, and measured 21 inches in length.

Michael is the brother of Vincent Lane (age five) and Anthony Lane (deceased); the paternal grandson of Doug and Lynne Masten (Dearborn Heights, MI); and the maternal grandson of Greg Gutowski (Romulus, MI) and Pauline Johnson (Brownstown Township, MI).

## Patrick Michael Paige



Patrick Michael Paige

Patrick and Stacy Paige of Romulus, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their new son, Patrick Michael Paige.

Patrick was born in Oakwood Hospital (Dearborn, MI) at 10:21 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29, 2000, weighing 10 pounds, 7 ounces, and measuring 22 inches in length.

Especially excited about the new arrival was his big sister, Alexis Nicole Paige (age three).

Patrick's paternal grandparents are Pat and Kay Paige (Romulus, MI); Jim and Shelly Foust (Romulus, MI) are his maternal grandparents. □

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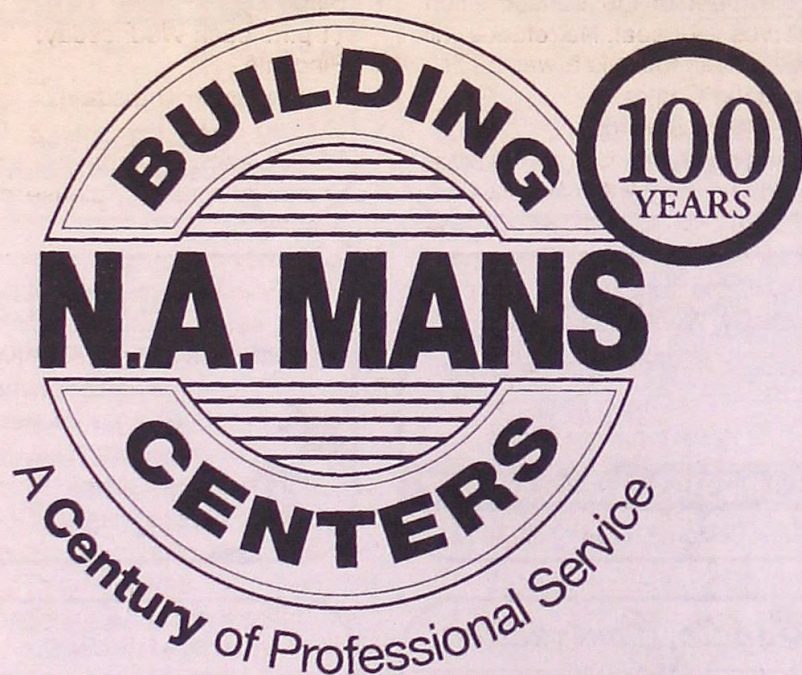
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